

# • First Glances at New Books

## Economics

**ECONOMIC TENDENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES**—Frederick C. Mills—*National Bureau of Economic Research*, 639 p., \$5. As an essential and fundamentally important economic history of the United States from the turn of the century until the beginning of the depression, this volume, replete with figures and graphs, will go far toward answering many questions which are raised by the present furor which surrounds the word "technocracy." In a sense, this volume is the continuum report of "Recent Economic Changes in the United States," published in 1929 by the Committee on Recent Economic Changes of the Hoover Conference on Unemployment. The author, Dr. Mills, is one of the research staff of that non-profit institution which makes impartial investigation in economic, social and industrial science.

*Science News Letter, February 4, 1933*

## Psychology-Education

**AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF SUPERSTITIONS AND OTHER UNFOUNDED BELIEFS AS RELATED TO CERTAIN UNITS OF GENERAL SCIENCE**—Otis W. Caldwell and Gerhard E. Lundeen—*Teachers College, Columbia University*, 138 p., \$1.25. Superstitions and unscientific ideas still have a great hold on high school students. General courses in science do not serve to correct these beliefs, the authors have found. In this volume they show the way to include in the science course direct instruction aimed at the more commonly accepted unfounded beliefs.

*Science News Letter, February 4, 1933*

## Economics-Engineering

**THE ABC OF TECHNOCRACY**—Frank Arkright—*Harper*, 73 p., \$1. "Based on authorized material" this brief volume adds practically nothing to the so-called explanations that have appeared in newspapers and magazines. It rants at the "price system"; insists that energy is the basis upon which this continent should be operated, calls attention to the rise of debt and variations in the purchasing power of the dollar, and calls Technocracy's one fundamental principle "that the facts involved in the functional operation of our society are metrical, in other words, the working of our great social machine is susceptible to measurements." But as for a practical plan of

Technocracy, there is none. Even if the book contained correct diagnosis of our civilization's ills, there is no treatment suggested. The good old patent medicine man's trick of big names and pseudo-technicalities is employed. Figures and factual claims are given wholly without sources. Compared with Veblen, Soddy or the extensive studies in economics that have been made and published in the past few years, as its opening sentence says: "This is a disturbing book."

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## Medicine

**CANCER THEN AND NOW**—New York City Cancer Committee—*Chemical Foundation*, 80 p., \$1. This book is the outgrowth of an exhibit displayed by the Committee as part of its educational work. Various phases of the cancer problem, such as methods of treating, the parts played by physicians, nurses and hospitals, and cancer research are graphically illustrated on one page, while opposite is a discussion of that phase of the subject by an authority. As a result, much sound information is conveyed in brief space. Chief credit for the book apparently goes to Dr. John C. A. Geister, chairman of the Committee; Dr. Paul Kurt Sauer, secretary, who prepared the chart texts; and Mrs. Francis J. Rigney, publicity director of the Committee, who conceived and executed the plan of the exhibit.

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## Aviation

**KRONFELD ON GLIDING AND SOARING**—Robert Kronfeld—*John Hamilton, London*, 379 p., 21s. Authoritatively and in considerable detail a skillful German pilot who carried the art and science of gliding to England gives the history and present status of soaring flight.

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## Engineering

**SYMPOSIUM ON STEEL CASTINGS**—*American Society for Testing Materials and American Foundrymen's Association*. 254 p., \$1.

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## General Science

**YEARBOOK, NO. 31, 1932**—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 392 p., paper bound, \$1; cloth bound, \$1.50. The records of research contained in the Year Books of the Carnegie Institution of Washington form significant chapters in the history of American progress. The wideflung researches of this great institution are recurrently fruitful. Commenting that "between fundamental research and the incidents of day-to-day living the gap may seem extremely wide," the president, Dr. John C. Merriam says: "Once the boundaries of knowledge have been moved forward, it becomes important to know the values represented by such advance. The time has long passed when it seemed desirable to inquire whether information about the universe or ourselves could exist which would not have human value. The unity of knowledge as we now begin to conceive it indicates that ultimately everything attains its place. That which seems insignificant may finally appear among the most important influences in life. Such is, in part, the justification for a program of intensive effort devoted to advancement of knowledge in the spirit of human service."

*Science News Letter, February 4, 1933*

## Engineering-Economics

**LIFE IN A TECHNOCRACY, What It Might Be Like**—Harold Loeb—*Viking Press*, 209 p., \$1.75. This is a careful, interesting and thought-provoking addition to the literature of Utopias, carrying on the ideas of Veblen and doing some homage to Howard Scott. It is worth reading if only to disagree with it. It is not the literary product of the past few weeks since the Technocracy furor began, but was written several months ago. The author concludes ". . . an unprejudiced examination of the capitalistic system compels an open mind to formulate a new system for providing man with goods necessary for life on earth, a system incorporating the good of capitalism and discarding the evil, a system akin to the technocracy outlined in these pages. . . ."

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